

Vol. VI—No. 4.

JANUARY, 1888.

Whole Number, 34.



Gaskell's Magazine,

Commencing with the January issue, took the place of the *Penman's Gazette*. A fine portrait of GENERAL LOGAN is January's frontispiece; of PROF. SWING, in February; of JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL, in March. Price only \$1.00 a year; single copies, 10 cents.

We give away a handsome Pen and Ink Picture, "Centennial Progress of St. Louis" [Price 50 cents,] size about 2 x 2 ft., to every yearly Subscriber.

Trial trip of three months for 20 cents.

January number and the Picture sent on receipt of 20 cents.

INCOMPARABLE!



These pens were first manufactured in small lots for our own and our students' use only. Becoming known among good writers, the demand for them has rapidly increased, until, at present, we send through the mails, postage paid, to all parts of the United States and Canada, over sixteen thousand small boxes a year! They are the smoothest running, the most elastic, and the most durable steel pens ever put on the market, thousands of the most flattering testimonials of their excellence, from professional penmen and business writers everywhere.

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A Good Position Made Certain.



The object of this penholder is to compel people to hold their pen correctly. The use of it will reform bad handwriting. Sent by mail on receipt of 10 cents. Three for 25 cents.

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The only System of that kind which has met with any great success is

Gaskell's Compendium of Penmanship.

It consists of four parts—*Copy-sheets*, *Book of Instructions*, *Ornamental sheet and case*. It is not simply a book. Nobody in the world ever learned to write from a book alone. The compendium package contains a small book, but the exercises for practice are all given on the Copy Sheets, of which there are eighteen, with alphabets. It is designed equally for all ages and stages of advancement; for *Ladies and Gentlemen*, as also for Girls and Boys. Among the many models for practice it gives:

BOLD BUSINESS WRITING, Consisting of Movement Exercises, Invoices, Notes, Ledger-Headings, Model Signatures, etc., etc.

LADIES' PENMANSHIP, Of the most elegant description, as used in Letters, Notes, Invitations, Cards, and Albums.

ORNAMENTAL WORK, For those wishing to attain to the highest possible proficiency; off-hand Flourishing of Birds, Swans, Quills, Scrolls, etc., and German Text, Old English and other Lettering.

All the above are in the form of written and other pen exercises. They are accompanied with a small *BOOK OF INSTRUCTIONS*, neatly illustrated, containing full directions for acquiring perfect control of the pen, and correctness in form. This combination complete will be mailed to any address, post-paid, for

ONE DOLLAR.

Combination offer. Send us \$1.45 and we will mail a Compendium, $\frac{1}{4}$ gs. Box Pens, Ortho. Holder, 3 mos. trial trip Gaskell's Magazine, and Centennial picture. Always mention Plain Talk. Address:

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THE WORLD MOVES!

A GREAT INVENTION WHICH INTERESTS ARCHITECTS, BUILDERS & PROPERTY OWNERS.

THE CLIMAX RAIL

FOR SLIDING DOORS.

It is of simple and durable construction. The door runs smoothly and without noise. It can be put down in old buildings as well as new, without disturbing paint or casings; it is level with the floor and

OFFERS NO OBSTRUCTION

to the moving of Furniture. No danger of persons tripping over it in walking or dancing, and what CANNOT be said of any other rail made,

THE DOOR CANNOT GET OFF THE TRACK.

It is made of polished brass, giving a finished appearance to the doorway, AND IT IS CHEAP.

Every Architect should specify these rails. Every Builder should use them. Every Property Owner should take out the old style and put these in their place. Write at once for full descriptive Circular and Price List to

The Climax Rail Co.,

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Dont fail to mention PLAIN TALK.

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THE BEST THING EVER GOT UP FOR SHARPENING SLATE PENCILS.

We want you to act as our Agent in your place. The one selling the most SHARPENERS between now and May 1st, 1888, will receive a

SPLENDID NICKEL PLATED MAGIC LANTERN WITH SIXTY VIEWS.

Size of Lantern, 7x9x10 inches. Send 6cts for sample Sharpener, Prices to Agents, Circular of other Prizes, etc.

A. H. BARRONS,

52 Bellevue Street, HARTFORD, CONN.
Mention PLAIN TALK.

\$80 A MONTH and expenses paid any active person to distribute circulars and sell goods, or \$40 a Month and expenses to distribute circulars only; salaries paid monthly. Samples of our goods and contract free. Send rec. for postage, packing, etc.; we mean business. **UNION SUPPLY CO., 137 W. Quincy Street, Chicago, Ill.**

YOUNG MEN

LEARN STEAM ENGINEERING,

and earn \$100. per month. Send your name and 10 cents in stamps to **F. KEPPY**, Engineer, Bridgeport, Conn.

CARDS Book of **HIDDEN NAME CARDS**, 18 Funny Stories, 680 Verses, Songs, Riddles, Speeches, Etc., and a copy of our finely illustrated **HOME AND YOUTH**, Cadiz, Ohio.

ELEGANT BOOK of valuable information, 1000 engravings, 112 pages, sent postpaid for 10c. next 30 days. **C. E. KATZSCH & CO.**, Box 1114, New Haven, Conn.

TYPE WRITER for \$2.00, postpaid. Cheap, Practical, and Durable, 20 to 30 words a minute can be written. **GEO. R. BLAKELY**, Bradford, McKean County, Pa.

25 CHROMOCARDS, name on, 10c.; 3 pcks. 25c. Agents wanted. **D. TAFT**, 163 Bleecker Street, N.Y.

BOOK ON WATCH REPAIRING, &c., 124 pages. Sent postpaid for 34 cents in stamps. **WM. LEHR**, Bremen, Ind.

THE GAME OF FORTUNE and 50 Songs for 5 cents. Address, **J. D. GRAY**, Augusta, Me.

CONTRACTS

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SHOULD BE MADE NOW!

Remember the circulation of PLAIN TALK is many times larger than that of any of its Philatelic contemporaries.

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A BOOK OF 266 PAGES DEVOTED TO THE SUBJECT OF

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GEO. P. ROWELL & CO.,

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YOUR name, business and address on a self-inking stamp complete with ink, box, etc. Sent post-paid for seventy-five cents. **GEO. R. BLAKELY**, Bradford, McKean County, Pa.

FOR LADIES ONLY. I will send any Lady a valuable secret, that cost me five dollars, and a Rubber Shield, on receipt of 30c. Address, **MRS. A. KINSMAN & CO.**, 192 W. Jackson St., Chicago, Ill.

THE OWL. A spicy paper, 4 months on trial, 10 cents, etc., only 2 cents. **OWL PUBLISHING CO.**, Putney, Vt. Please mention this paper.

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REVOLVER SCARF PINS, 30c. each, to close out. Heaviest plate, worth \$1. **F. C. T. DAVIS**, Box 21, Salem Mass.

ONE PACK May 10 U Home Cards, One Pack Escort Cards, One Pack Flirtation Cards, One Pack Hold-to-the-Light Cards, The Mystic Oracle, with which you can tell any person's age; and large sample book of Hidden Name Cards. All for only 2-cents stamp. **Banner Card Co., Cadiz, Ohio**.

390 Funny Selections, Scrap Pictures, etc., and nice Sample Cards for 2c. **HILL PUB. CO.**, Cadiz, Ohio.

WHY NOT send rec. for the *Era and News*, 6 months on trial and have your name and address inserted in 2 Mammoth Directories FREE, and you will receive lots of reading matter, samples, &c. Try us. ERA PUBLISHING CO., Goodrich, Mich.

FREE! You will receive hundred of Samples, Papers, Catalogues, Magazines, etc., free, by sending rec. to have your name and address inserted in the AGENTS' LIGHTNING DIRECTORY, which goes to firms all over the U.S. A copy sent each name. **L. A. DITERS**, Burlington, Conn.

941 HIDDEN NAME CARDS, scrap pictures, puzzles, games, crests, album verses, and the largest and finest sample book of new style cards ever issued. All for a 2-cent stamp. **Steam Card Works, Station 15, O.**

GENTS, we have it: the Little Flirt 10 cents. Address **E. M. LOCKWOOD**, Bellaire Ohio.

UNION PARER AND CORER. Best thing out for Agents. Sample 15c. Circulars free. WHARTON & CO., Marysville, O.

FREE 32 COLUMN ILLUSTRATED PAPER. BOOK OF LOVELY SAMPLE CARDS. Alphabet of Success, 635 Conundrums, etc., big lot of humorous stories and full outfit, all for only 2 cents, and our splendid paper for young people with 25 fine engravings sent free. **HILL PUB. CO.**, Cadiz, Ohio.

PLAIN TALK

VOL. VI.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., JANUARY, 1888.

No. 4.

BRAINS GIVEN AWAY.

I set about to perform a pleasant task.

To aid in illuminating this world with the steady rays of unbiassed intelligence, to help extend the boundaries of progressive science, and to pick up the unenlightened by the loose part of their clothes and hold them up and saturate them with the blinding glare of a superior intellect, is to me a duty that I perform with great pleasure.

So with a large number of inquiring letters to PLAIN TALK before me that have baffled the skill of the rest of the editorial staff, and warped their brains into various stages of deformity, I feel quite at home.

Number one is a large faded sheet from a ledger, with number 164 in blue on the upper left hand corner. This indicates that the writer, Amos Worming, has sacrificed the neatness of his book-keeping in his mad thirst for knowledge. He is eighteen years and has worked on a farm all his life, but is getting sick of it. He would like to get some "possession" in some good store in New York.

His penmanship exhibits a remarkable degree of originality, and an unnecessarily lavish use of ink.

The several places where, in its enthusiasm, his pen has punctured the paper and decorated the surrounding area with inky constellations, may be to his sense artistic, but in this town they add no lustre to the author's name.

If it were not for his leaning toward a store job, I would speak to the Mayor about him, so that if a vacancy happened in the Board of Education, he would know just where to lay his hand on a good man.

Miss Ella wants a selection, which would be appropriate to write in a gentlemen's autograph album, and as that is right in my line I respond with alacrity:

"Mr. Dusenberry, really,
tho' I don't intend a slight,
Please allow me to remind
you, that your trousers fit
too tight";

or, in another vein—

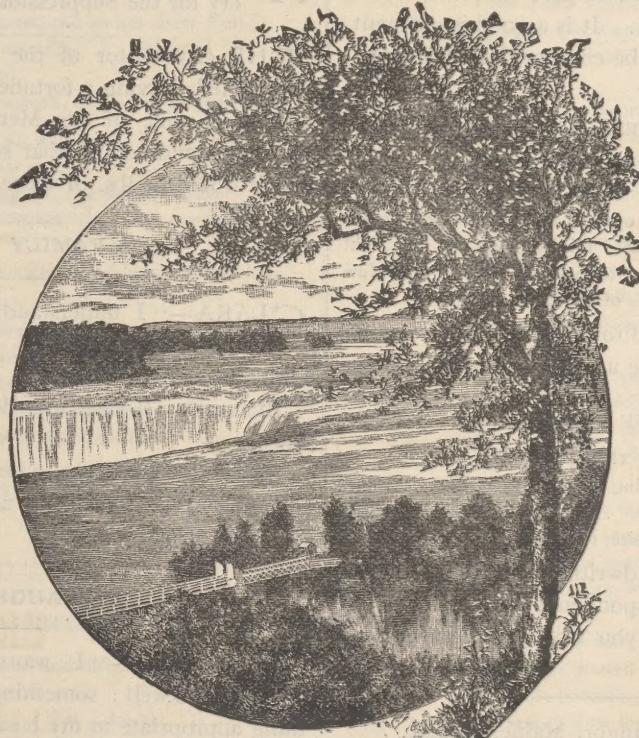
"Charley, tho' we all think
you're a dandy, and Per-
fection's self you seem,
All the girls would like you
better, if you spent more
on ice cream."

Many people take little mottoes from the Bible, the Almanac and the Directory, and they seem to suit well enough; in fact it does seem that the further off they are from sense or reason, the more they are liked.

Obituary poetry used to have a strong hold, and in view of what I have just remarked concerning lack of sense, you might be able to use the following little gem, which used to bring tears to my eyes as I read it in my little Sunday School book:

Go bury Bartholomew out in the woods
In a beautiful hole in the ground,
Where the grasshoppers hop and the wood-peckers peck,
And the June bugs skate gaily around.

OSCAR H. LEAR.



PLAIN TALK

PLAIN TALK TO CORRESPONDENTS.

N. B.—Correspondents will please take particular notice that we do not return gold watches or other articles sent to us.

SILAS SIDEBOTTOM, Soft Snap County, Dakota, writes :

EDITOR OF PLAIN TALK :

Dear Sir—I am a subscriber to your paper and I want your advize. Some time ago I receive a circular from a man in York wantin to sen me som grene goods he ses he wood sen me \$300 dollars fer \$100 dollars du you think it is awl right anser sune. How is mi hanwriting

MR. SIDEBOTTOM :

Dear Friend—Your handwriting is pretty fair for a farmer, which we take you to be. About the green goods, we say it is lucky you consulted us, as otherwise you would certainly have been fleeced. If you have \$100 to spare, the best thing you can do is to send it on to PLAIN TALK and receive in return a two hundred year subscription. It is a good investment, as PLAIN TALK will never be cheaper than it is now.

MRS. DELIRIA TREMENS, Eatontown, Haslett County, Nebraska, writes :

EDITOR PLAIN TALK :

Dear Sir—I am thinking of opening a restaurant and saloon here, there being none in our town I think it might pay me. Will you please give me an idea how to make up a bill of fare New York style. What do you think of my handwriting.

Dear Madam—The editor of this paper carries his lunch, but we will state a couple of sample items
—i. e. :

BILL OF FARE.

HOTEL D'TREMENS.

Stuffed Veal—without the stuffing	30c.
Roast Turkey—Cranberry sauce	40c.
Trial size, 10c.	

In regard to your handwriting, let us say that if you have any more correspondence with us we would be extremely obliged to you if you will purchase a typewriter.

SQUIRE BULWINKLE, Bangor, Maine, writes :

EDITOR PLAIN TALK :

Sir—Please let me know a sure cure for baldness. How is my handwritings

We are willing to answer almost any question our readers may ask, but we cannot, Mr. Bulwinkle, give away our Bald Head cure. The price is 50c. a bottle and sent C. O. D. on receipt of price. Our bald-headed editor worked a great many golden hours preparing this article and we have to sell it.

PLAININGS.

BUSINESS MANAGER.—“What d'ye find in your stocking Christmas morning?”

Editor.—“Corns.”

IT doesn't take much to make a one-legged man “hopping mad.” Steal his wooden leg and see.

MERCHANTS at this season of the year generally “take stock,” and nothing is thought of it. We once knew a man in Montana who “took stock” and was lynched for it.

A MAN on Gates avenue claims to have Irish blood in his veins because he wears a Cork leg.

ACTOR BARRYMORE has started a new Society for the Suppression of Vyse.

THE city editor of the London *Times* has just died, leaving a fortune of £124,000. If the editors of some of our Metropolitan dailies should die they could eclipse that sum by several thousand. But it would be lbs. of waste paper.

A FAMILY TRAIT.

CLARA—“I understand, Beatrice, that you are receiving attentions from Mr. Suckakane. Quite a society man, too.”

BEATRICE—“Yes, my dear, and he's so polished—”

CLARA—“He ought to be polished; for you know his father is a boot-black and has a stand with six chairs on Broadway.”

HE CAUGHT ON.

CUSTOMER—“I want a business suit, Mr. Shrinkwell; something not too loud; something appropriate to my business, you know.”

TAILOR—“Ah, yes. What is your business?”

“Cashier of the 25th Ward National Bank.”

“I should think, then, that a cutaway would be the most appropriate.”

NOW is the time to subscribe and take advantage of our liberal premium offers. We shall withdraw them soon and somebody will regret this neglect. Subscribe this minute.

PLAIN TALK.



NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS.

The holidays are over now,
He calmly said one night,
I'll make a resolution and stick to it like glue;
I'll lay away the pipe,
And the sickly cigarette,
Get up to-morrow morning and begin my life anew.

I'll join you chap, said Jack his friend,
I'm tired of this thing,
This running round of evenings and spending of one's tin.
I'll just let up on billiards
And lay my dust away,
And sometime I'll have something laid by for a rainy day.

Mamma, said she that evening,
I've something good to tell,
I've given up going to Germans, and so has sister Nell;
No more parties or balls, mamma,
We're going to be right good,
And knit and do the housework, as any daughters should.

What is it that makes them all so good ?
The old gent muttered that eve,
It's all on account of swearing off, I verily do believe;
But as they've started the racket
I'll swear right off myself,
I'll let the bottle alone for awhile, and lay it on the shelf,

ONE WEEK LATER.

Where are you going to, James ? said she ;
Only as far as the club, said he ;
And where are you going to, Mary, my dear ?
To a ball, but I'll be home early, don't fear.
Please mam, said the servant,
There's a man down stairs,
Who says the old gent
Is full to his ears.

CONN.

HER VALENTINE.

They say I'm pinched and stale,
And use powder by the pail,
But I don't.

I'm a little over twenty,
Papa knows my age,
I should have lovers plenty,
But I don't.

"Who'll be my valentine?"
Is what I sit and whine;
The letter that I longed for never came.
The days are past and gone;
I can sing the same old song,
Who'll be my pretty little

Valentine?

The letter's here at last,
Though many years have passed;
What then ?

His name is on this line ;
Who is my valentine ?

Dutch Hen.

"Dutch Hen's my valentine,"
Is what I sit and whine.
The letter that I longed for now is here.
The days may skip and fly,
Dutch Henny is my pie,
He's clumsy, but he's my dear
Valentine.

DINKPAN.

LEAP YEAR.

They sat alone in silent thought,
Their hands were clasped so tight ;
He planted a kiss upon her lips,
It's just one week to-night.

She'd made up her mind that evening,
On a matrimonial attack,
And if the hints didn't catch him,
A joke on marriage she'd crack.

He'd courted her the past ten years,
And never *the* word had said ;
For matrimonial talk with him
Had long ago been dead.

And as she saw no possible chance,
She grew extremely tired,
And thought she'd open the ball at once,
And of his health inquired.

Then spoke she of the heavenly skies,
The moon and stars o'erhead ;
Then toward the course of true-love she
Her conversation led.

So she hemmed and hawed around it,
And slowly wasted her breath ;
Until finally becoming desperate,
She said, "Now look here Seth,"

"For ten long years you've hung 'round here,
Now what are you going to do ?
Are you going to pop the question to me,
Or am I to pop to you ?"

"And as its Leap Year, here she goes,"
"Never mind," said he, "I drop,
I'd a had you five or six years ago,
But I hadn't the courage to pop."

CONN.

PLAIN TALK.

PLAIN TALK.

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH AT 6½ PATCHEN AVENUE,
BROOKLYN, N. Y., BY
PLAIN TALK PUBLISHING COMPANY.
(INCORPORATED.)
WM. J. MYERS, EDITOR. | E. VAN SCHAACK, MANAGER.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES. IN ADVANCE.

PER ANNUM, 50 CENTS. | SIX MONTHS, 30 CENTS.
To Foreign Countries, 75 Cents per annum.

ADVERTISING RATES.

	1 MO.	2 MOS.	3 MOS.	6 MOS.	1 YR.
One Inch	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.85	\$ 2.65	\$ 5.15	\$ 9.35
Two Inches	1.85	3.60	5.15	9.35	17.90
Three Inches	2.65	5.15	7.45	14.10	26.65
Five Inches	4.40	8.40	12.20	23.00	44.00
One Column	8.00	15.20	21.65	41.00	78.00
One Page	21.65	41.00	60.00	113.00	215.00

Advertisements to occupy less than one inch space will be charged 10 cents per line, and MUST be paid for in advance.

ADVERTISING AGENT, GEO H. RICHMOND, NO 5 BEEKMAN ST., NEW YORK. TO WHOM ALL CORRESPONDENCE IN RELATION TO ADVERTISING MUST BE ADDRESSED.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., JANUARY, 1888.

ELEGANT book of poems free to new subscribers during the month of February.

MANY of our friends called on New Year's day to pay their compliments to the crock, and the crock was in his happiest mood.

NEW Year's resolutions are generally made of very poor material, and we venture the assertion that the knees of many of them are worn out already.

EVERY new subscriber during the month of February will be presented with a book of poems worth nearly the whole cost of subscription.

THE winner of the prize offered in our November number writes as follows after receiving the Gaskell's Compendium sent him:—"Gaskell's Compendium is at hand. Many thanks; am very much pleased with it, also surprised at the amount of matter contained in the same. I should have been very well pleased if I had received *one-half* the amount of matter. I can say this, that it will fully repay any one to try a dozen times or more for one, should he or she not succeed before. Again accept thanks and best wishes for PLAIN TALK.

I remain, yours truly,
GEO. R. MERRILL."

PLAIN TALK'S PRIZE PROBLEMS.

PLAIN TALK'S Prize Problems are open to anybody and everybody. Any person receiving a Sample Copy of the paper is entitled to compete for the prize offered in the current number. Regular subscribers, however, have the advantage of competing twelve times a year, or during the continuance of their subscription, with the chance, of course, of winning something worth many times the cost of their subscription.

When two or more correct answers to a problem are received, the winner will be decided by a hat drawing.

The names of the winners and all competitors sending the correct answer will be published monthly, and all persons (not subscribers) sending the correct answers, who are unlucky at the drawing, will be offered an opportunity of subscribing to PLAIN TALK at the reduced price of Thirty Cents per annum.

All answers must be in by the 5th of the month, and any person (not a subscriber) wishing a copy of the next number containing a solution of problem and the names of winners, must send with his answer 5 cents in stamps for the copy.

THE WINNERS.

THE winners of prizes for our January problem were Eddie Mooney, Summit, N. J., who won first prize, Ollie Miller, Euclid, Ohio, second. The correct arrangement of the digits is as follows:

2 — 9 — 4
7 — 5 — 3
6 — 1 — 8

The other persons sending the correct answer, but who were not lucky at the drawing are Dan'l Taft, 163 Bleecker St., N. Y., J. D. Bartlett, So. Amboy, N. J., C. F. Derrick, 5 Custom House, Boston, Eddie G. Reed, Signal, Ohio, Jas. W. Piercy, Hamilton, Ont., Edw'd Herbener, Appleton, Md-, Harry Hause, Marsh, Pa., Geo. R. Merrill, Detroit, Mich., M. Stern, Rochester, N. Y., J. S. and W. S. Hunter, Savannah, Mo., Geo. L. Stevens, Marlboro, Mass., Miss Blanche Brush, _____, F. Clement Soper, Ypsilanti, Mich., Fred. R. Grenny, Brantford, Ont., E. Payne, Buffalo, N. Y., O. P. Tedford, Denver, Col., J. H. Porter, Lenzburg, Ills., Emily A. Thompson, 44 Rush st., Brooklyn.

PRIZE PROBLEM FOR FEBRUARY.

A man with five weights can weigh any number of pounds from one to one hundred and twenty-one. What are they?

We will give free, one year's subscription to PLAIN TALK and one Gaskell's Compendium (see advt.), together worth one dollar and fifty cents, to the person sending the correct answer to the above problem and comply with the requirement at top of page: as to enclosing 5 cents for copy of paper.

If two or more correct answers are received, two prizes will be awarded, the second for PLAIN TALK for six months and Gaskell's Compendium.

PLAIN TALK .

PLAIN TALK PASTIMES.

TO COPY WRITING.—If a little sugar be added to the ink a copy of the writing may easily be taken off by laying a sheet of unsized paper, damped with a sponge or cloth, on the written paper, and passing lightly over it a flat-iron moderately heated.

SENTINEL EGG.—Lay a looking-glass upon an even table ; take a fresh egg, and shake it for some time, so that the yolk may be broken and mixed up with the white. You may then with a steady hand balance it on its point and make it stand on the glass.

TO SHOOT A GUN OFF AND FIND THE BULLET AT YOUR FEET.—After having put but a few grains of powder in a gun, drop the bullet in, and put in the rest of the charge. The detonation will be very loud, but the ball will fall a few feet only from the muzzle of the gun. A puppet might thus be called bullet-proof, and be fired at without injury being done.

BOILED CRABS WALKING OUT OF A DISH.—Put two or three live crabs in a deep kettle, so that they will be in the bottom, and sprinkle sal ammoniac on their shells. Turn the kettle round so that they will be well covered, and they will turn red, as if boiled. Place them in a dish, with a cover, and he who lets them out of their prison will be amazed at their walking out at him.

A PICTURE OF A RAVEN CROAKING.—Make a hole in the wall large enough to enclose a frog, and give him plenty of breathing space. Paste the papering over it, and hang a picture of a raven or a stuffed one before it. On bringing a lighted candle to it the frog will croak, and one would fancy it was the bird's image calling out.

THE MAGIC ANSWER.—This trick must be known to only two of the company. It is this: One person goes out of the room while the others fix on a word, which she is to guess on her return. There is an agreement between the two that the *right word* shall be named after anything with four legs—as a table, a chair, a dog, an elephant, etc., etc. For example: A lady goes out of the room; the company fix on the word “watch.” She returns. Her accomplice in the trick says :

QUERY. Did we name a book ?

ANS. No.

Q. Of a ship ?

A. No.

Q. Did we name a rose ?

A. No.

Q. Of a bird ?

A. No.

Q. Of a sheep? (Four legs).

A. No.

Q. Of a watch ?

A. Yes.

A FREAK OF CRYSTALIZATION.—Take two ounces of soda (washing soda) and add to them one ounce of hot water in a glass. It will all dissolve on stirring, and if we allow this solution of soda to cool, we shall notice that crystals appear on the sides of the glass.

A PLEASING EXPERIMENT.—Mix up half an ounce of powdered alum and half an ounce of powdered sulphate of copper ; and having mixed these powders well together, dissolve them in one ounce of hot water, and let the solution cool. You will see that the colorless crystals of alum are formed, and side by side with them, blue crystals of sulphate of copper appear.

PRICE OF BACK NUMBERS OF PLAIN TALK.

Vol. 1. No. 1,	.25	Vol. 4. No. 1,	.25
“ “ “ 2,	.05	“ “ “ 2,	.25
“ “ “ 3,	.10	“ “ “ 3,	.05
“ “ “ 4,	.05	“ “ “ 4,	.05
“ “ “ 5,	.05	“ “ “ 5,	.05
“ “ “ 6,	.25	“ “ “ 6,	.05
“ 2. “ 1,	.25	“ 5. “ 1,	.10
“ “ “ 2,	.25	“ “ “ 2,	.05
“ “ “ 3,	.05	“ “ “ 3,	.15
“ “ “ 4,	out.	“ “ “ 4,	.15
“ “ “ 5,	.25	“ “ “ 5,	out.
“ “ “ 6,	.05	“ “ “ 6,	.05
“ 3. “ 1,	out.	“ 6. “ 1,	.05
“ “ “ 2,	out.	“ “ “ 2,	.05
“ “ “ 3,	.25	“ “ “ 3,	.05
“ “ “ 4,	.05		
“ “ “ 5,	.05		
“ “ “ 6,	.25		

PLAIN TALK.



MR. DURBOROW ON THE A. P. A.

THE A. P. A. is a wonderfully constituted association, and may be said a useful one. It has many advantages for the collector of the day, if he only knew it. Some time since a member stated to me that he thought that dealers should discourage the association, because it would ruin their business.

Dealers are sharp to see a good thing, and they do see it in the A. P. A., for they are fast taking advantage of the exchange department, from mercenary motives.

A prominent dealer has informed me that he has disposed (*i. e.* sold) \$1,000 worth of stamps through it since last January, and that many others were doing likewise, because it is an absolute safety for them to dispose of their goods in that way, as they run no risks from frauds, etc. It has impressed me for some time that the association was for a select few, and that they were reaping the benefit of your credulity; it looks so at least, and I think it will not be many years before it will be a syndicate of dealers, unless collectors rise up and say that dealers shall not hold office (*I would say membership*). Understand I do not blame the association, I only point this out as one of the evils that will creep in in spite of all that members may do to prevent it.—*Extract from an address made by E. R. Durborow made before the Q. P. C. Society, December 10, 1887.*

PROSPECTS OF A SOCIETY FOR BROOKLYN.

MESS. Theo. F. Cuno and John M. Sheridan have issued the following call to collectors in Brooklyn:

Gentlemen—Is it not time we should have a philatelic society in this city? We have over ten A. P. A. members and many more unattached collectors, so that material is not wanting. We can start as soon as we have a sufficient number, and we have facilities that would make our society one of the best in the land.

Please give the matter careful consideration and hand in your names at once. Fraternally yours,

THEO. F. CUNO, A. P. A., No. 1.

JOHN M. SHERIDEN, A. P. A., No. 219.

Address all communications to JOHN M. SHERIDEN, 22 St. Felix street, Brooklyn.

DEATH OF L. C. SMITH.

MR. E. C. PATTON, of Salem, Oregon, writes us that Mr. L. C. Smith, a prominent stamp dealer and collector, died in Salem, Oregon, December 11, at 3 A. M. He was a bright boy and worked bravely for the support of his father and mother. He became interested in the stamp business in 1885, and at the time of his death he was eighteen years of age. Philatelic papers please copy.

PHILATELIC JIBLETS.

THE list and sketch of Philatelic journals in Canada and the United States, in existence at the close of 1887, compiled by Henry S. Harte, in the *Halifax Philatelist* for December, contains inaccuracies. It speaks of the *Empire State Philatelist*, which is dead, and fails to mention PLAIN TALK.

WE are in receipt of *Price Catalogue No. 7*, published by John F. Henry, Jr., P. O. Box 1512, New York. It is in convenient form for carrying in the pocket, and arranged for ready reference, and contains a fairly complete list with prices of United States and foreign postage stamps.

THE *Witch City Philatelist*, for November, got in just too late to wish us a Merry Christmas, and too early to crack the Happy New Year "chestnut." It warned us to see what it "looked like next month." We find it looked like a great, big O.

"HE bore the stamp of a gentleman," remarked a writer in one of our daily contemporaries, several days ago. If the writer had possessed himself of that stamp his fortune would have been made. Mr. Vouté, of Chicago, is looking for one to add to his collection.

THE *Mohawk Standard* remarks that it is "glad to notice an improvement in the *American Philatelist*. We have yet to hear that the latter journal has noted any "improvement" in the *Standard*.

RUMOR was that the once proud *Empire State Philatelist* was dead. We hoped not, but another month has gone by and we have not seen hide or hair of it. We fear the worst has happened. Killed by Calvert.

PLAIN TALK



Br. Bechuanaland.—The following have been issued of the same types as those lately described: 2d., 4d. lilac; 2s., 2s.6d., 5s., 10s. green. Also the following issues of Great Britain, surcharged in black: Adhesive ½d. vermilion, Post card 1d., Wrappers ½ and 1d., and Registry envelopes, 2d., three sizes.

Brazil.—There is a new 50 reis letter card. Head on horizontally lined ground.

Bulgaria.—The 5st. card now has "Poschtenska" instead of "Otbopeho."

Ceylon.—Mr. Rusbridge has sent us the new 15c. stamp. It resembles the 25c. and 28c. and is olive green (c c 37).

Dutch Indies.—The numeral in the 1c. stamp is now *Italic*.

Faridkot.—The *Ph. R.* reports a new issue of the second type, in black as well as in blue, and the *I. B. J.* has the third type in vermilion.

French Colonies.—*Der Ph.* reports a letter card, 25c. black on rose.

Haiti.—A new series has just been issued; we have seen only the 1c., 2c. and 5c. They bear the portrait of the president in an oval, with "Haiti" above and value below, both in figures and letters. In the two upper corners are also the figures of value, 1c. lake (c. c. 134), 2c. lilac (c. c. 68), 5c. green (c. c. 27). White paper, no watermark, perf. 14.

Holland.—Letter cards are reported.

Hungary.—The 3kr. letter card is now green on gray.

Lagos.—The 1½d. card now measures 138x88, and there is a 1½x1½ card, red brown on buff.

Nepaul.—There is a native post card 3½ pies, black and red on pale brown, thick paper.

Newfoundland.—The 1c. is now green (c. c. 33), 2c. orange (c. c. 5), 3c. brown (c. c. 80), 10c. black. The latter is of a new design, somewhat resembling the 13c.

New Zealand.—There is an official stamp, without value, black on white. A crown and the words "Postage—Free" are in a rectangular Greek frame.

Roumania.—The unpaid letter stamps are now green, at least the 10 bani.

A GENTS' DIRECTORY.

The following parties have sent us ten cents to have their names inserted in this directory and would be pleased to receive samples of papers, merchandise, catalogues, price lists, etc.

Names inserted in this department, 10c. for 1 insertion or 3 months for 25 cents.

Michael L. Murphy, Brugen, Nathan Co., Pa.

C. V. A. Walsh, Howard Place, Jersey City, N. J.

G. W. Tipton, Trinity P. O., Tex.

Jas. E. E. Lea, Peace Grove, P. O., La.

John Steigerwald, 35 Superior St., Buffalo, N. Y.

Duncan Johnston, Bordeaux, Wyo. Terry.

Charles Wischman, Reading, Mass.

Arthur Platt, Southington, Conn.

O. F. Alvers, Sisco, Put Co., Fla.

O. G. Olsen, Wendell, Grant Co., Minn.

Frank Spear, Menelen, N. Y.

Wm. Jackson, Bailey's Harbor, Wis.

E. A. Gould, St. Albans, Vt.

Emil J. Rall, Savannah, Ga.

Mrs. Bettie Hardy, Hookerton, N. C.

C. B. Russell, Marlboro, Mass.

Harry Hicks, Ashford, Mass.

W. C. Lowndes, 710 St. Paul St., Baltimore, Md.

Anton Plutz, Forestville, Wis.

J. H. H. Boyd, Cagle P. O., Tenn.

C. R. Crittenden, East Poultney, Vt.

C. L. Royer, Sterling, Rice Co., Kans.

Chas. Asplen, Fairview, Utah.

C. B. Edmonds, Glen Gardner, N. J.

Arthur W. Fillmore, Lyndville, N. S.

Dr. Wm. Boardman, Gordon, Neb.

Henry J. Armstrong, Box 141, St. Andrews Bay, Fla.

N. D. Jacobson, Nelsonville, Wis.

R. W. E. Hayes, Galva, Ill.

Ole Hanson, Monson, Me.

Arthur M. Lazier, Box 240, Morgantown, W. Va.

J. V. Ramirez, Box No. 1, Saltillo, Mex.

E. F. Vandiver, Weaverville, N. C.

AGENTS' ADVERTISING

We want good advertising agents.

out Advertisers' fees at 30 per cent.

we import our stamps directly from foreign countries.

agents will pay out their fees per cent.

make sure you get our price list.

agents will pay out their fees per cent.

